expressed by the hon. Members here. It has been my personal experience as a Minister for long years that whenever projects are taken up, people are displaced and they are given assurances. Some agreements are entered into and we forget about them. People suffer. I would like the Government to ensure that not only in this case but in many other cases whatever assurances have been given to the people must be fulfilled.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would just take a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would just take one second on this. I take your observation very very seriously. I want to assure you that this Government has, very seriously, the agenda of implementing a National Rehabilitation Policy which we are going to bring up in the Chief Ministers' and the State Minister's Conference.

[Translation]

Water Supply to Villages

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*86. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to hand over the functioning and maintenance of water supply sources to village panchayats;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be effective?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Empowered Committee of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission consisting of representatives of all State/UT Government and of the Government of India has recommended that the operation and maintenance of rural drinking water facilities should be the responsibility of Panchayats.

(b) The States/UTs are evolving their own systems for operation and maintenance involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) No time limit has been recommended.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir whenever any question is put up relating to public problems, be it a question of poverty alleviation or power supply, an irresponsible reply is given by the Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have given your ruling just now keeping in view the sentiments of this House and I hope that this Government will abide by your directions. We should not be compelled to approach the committee on Government Assurances again for non fulfilment of the assurance. Similarly, the problem of drinking water in rural areas of this country...

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to ask a question?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : That was only the background. I have yet to ask question. You have made me to cut short the background. Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given a casual reply in regard to the problem of drinking water. I do not think that the Government is concerned over it. As per the survey conducted on 1-4-94 in the country, 24113 main villages and 1,16,862 other villages were deprived of the facility of pure drinking water. As per the data published by the Government in 1995-96, 59736 villages will remain deprived of this facility. The villagers of these villages will not get pure drinking water. In the end of the reply to the question, you have stated that no recommendation has been made for fixing any-time limit. We are going to complete fifty years of our independence, yet Government is not aware of the time limit. My question is, how much amount has been given to state Government especially, to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme meant for resolving the problem of drinking water?

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to ask another question also?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I have asked only the first question.

MR. SPEAKER : You were talking of time. Please see the time.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, drinking water is the top most priority of the United Front Government. This United Front Government came into power in the month of June. This Government is not responsible for the solution of the problem. That is why, in our Common Minimum Programme, under our basic minimum services, drinking water is the top most item. We want to cover all villages by 2000 A.D. By 1997-98, this Government is to complete all not covered villages including the partially covered ones also which get between one to ten litres per day. That is our plan of action. Basing on that we request the State Governments to say that we want to cover all the not covered villages and partially covered villages by the next two years and we are basing our action plan on that level. We are spending ten per cent of the total earmarked Budget on the operation, maintenance and everything under ARWS. Under the MNP also, the State Governments are spending ten per cent of the money. It means that twenty per cent of money available for the district is

available for this operation and maintenance. Some States are implementing it through time Gram Panchayats and some States are implementing it through the voluntary organisations. It is going on like that. Whatever else you want to know, you can ask me.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was, whether the Government was going to hand over the functioning and maintenance of water supply sources to Gram Panchayats or not? In reply to this question, the hon'ble Minister has said that the States/UTs are itself developing a system for operation and maintenance of rural drinking water facilities with active participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions. My submission is that while talking of your common minimum programme, you have said that your Government is not at fault for not providing drinking water to all villages but your Government has accorded top priority to the problem of drinking water in the common minimum programme. Today, fortunately or unfortunately, you are ruling in Uttar Pradesh. Whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have formulated any policy in this regard and by when you are going to hand over this system to Panchayati Raj for resolving the problem of drinking water and when you are going to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system? How much amount has been given to Uttar Pradesh for providing drinking water? Through you, I would like to warn the hon'ble Minister that gross irregularities are being committed in the installation of 'India Mark-2 Handpump.' Sir, I think you are also concerned about that. Irregularities are also being committed in the implementation of 'Indira Awas Yojna.' Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us know the amount given to Uttar Pradesh? How that amount will be utilised and what are you going to do in this regard?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, water supply is a State subject. Monitoring, planning, implementation and everything is done by the States.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : You are now the Government in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : We are supplementing something from the side of the Central Government. Under the ARWS, in 1996-97, we have released Rs.122 crore so far but the expenditure incurred by the UP Government is Rs.45 crore. Under the MNP, the State Government released Rs. 128 crore and the expenditure incurred is Rs.41 crore. The total amount available with the UP Government is Rs.250 crore whereas so far the expenditure incurred is Rs.80 crore. Money is not a problem. You spend this Rs.80 crore. You enforce the local administration, the Public Works Department, prepare everything and spend more money. The top priority of this United Front Government is the drinking water. Money is not a problem. You spend this Rs.80 crore, then we will give the money. Money is not the criteria.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : It cannot be the question of money alone. The U.P. Government is under the direct control of the Central Government. It is all right that money is not a problem. But the money is not being spent. My question is, whatever money is being spent, is being looted. Why are you not monitoring it? It is your responsibility and not our responsibility...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : You are the elected representative. If you give me the information about the money being looted, I will institute an inquiry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

*81. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has a proposal to launch some new projects in collaboration with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of the joint ventures projects planned by IOC;

(c) the investment proposed to be made in those projects;

(d) the date by which these projects are expected to be launched; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e). IOC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on 16-9-1995 for setting up a 6-0 MMTPA refinery in Eastern India as a Joint Venture Project. The Government has already accorded State-I clearance of the project.

The details of the Project including cost estimates, exact location, time of completion would be known after finalisation of Detailed Feasibility Report.

Oil Selection Boards

*83. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have disbanded the Oil Selection Board in any State due to charges of corruption/malpractices during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). The tenure of the Chairman and the